

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall - Council Chamber

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

May 12, 2015

Open Session

Mr. Tsonos, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Members present: Jessica Beauchaine, Nathan Cahoon, Anthony Ferreira, Joel Monteiro, Charles Tsonos (Joel Monteiro arrived later after open call). Also present: Kim Mercer, Superintendent; Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

Motion made by Mr. Cahoon that the Committee convene in Executive Session for purposes of discussing: Personnel – R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1); Collective Bargaining R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2); Litigation//Pending Litigation-R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2); seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

School Committee returned to Public Session.

Report Executive Session Votes – No votes taken

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine.

Vote 5-0.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence were observed.

Student/Teacher/Community Recognition:

Mildred Morris, Former School Committee Chair

EPLAC 2015 Special Needs Recognition Program Recipients

Ms. Guillet - Waddington Garden Project

Student Liaison Report – William Vanner presented a report on high school events and activities.

PTO/PTA Reports – Izilda Teves – Event at Orlo on May 29th with silent auction; Oldham Spring Fair on May 30, 2015.

Hearing to Obtain Public Input Re: Naming New Facilities - Friends of Rick Vars and Ron Rossi

Mr. Tsonos noted that the School Committee policy on naming of facilities requires that an open hearing be held to obtain input prior regarding the naming or changing the name of a facility.

The following spoke in favor of naming the Band Room at the High School in memory of Mr. Richard Vars, a former teacher who passed away recently:

George Sarganis, former teacher; Tabitha Watchen, teacher; Susana Pimentel, Martin Middle School Band Director; John Resendes, Principal 1986-1999 at Martin Middle School; Jack MacNamara, former band director at Martin Middle School and the High School and Mr. Robert Rodericks, former School Department employee.

Mr. Tsonos stated that the School Committee would take the comments and move forward with the information.

The following spoke in favor of naming a room in memory of a Mr. Ron Rossi, a former teacher who passed away recently:

Richard J. Wood – friend of 40 years, thanked the School Committee for considering some form of recognition for Mr. Rossi; Mr. Cahoon supported finding a way to remember Mr. Rossi, his neighbor and 8th grade science teacher; George Sarganis said he went to high school with Mr. Rossi, who was very involved in Special Olympics; he is also in support of honoring Mr. .Rossi as well.

Motion made by Mr. Monteiro to approve naming the Band Room in memory of Richard Vars, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0. Mr. Cahoon noted that the Committee would like to work with the friends of Mr. Rossi to properly identify the space and the way to appropriately honor Mr. Rossi and would commit to a future agenda

item for the naming.

Public Comment I – Agenda Items - None

Facilities Report- Mr. Williams Reynolds, Facilities Director, provided an update: The Orlo fire alarm is operational; door at Orlo nearly completed; we did not have to replace all the soffits and will get credit from Burman; once the credit received, will take three weeks to do them all; Whiteknact door will be finished this week with punch list; working on Whiteknact fence; Riverside door will be installed; hardware issues corrected; need lights at one of the doors; cracked glass will be replaced; punch list this week; soffits will be done when school ends; wheelchair ramp at Riverside Middle School completed.

Riverside Middle School – getting prices on sidewalk and curb in bus loop.

Burman will start doors after school ends and hopes to finish in August.

Waddington – bathroom contractor finished last night; will open tomorrow if we can; tile was missing; ready for punch list.

Hennessey roof –will wait for rain to see where the water is going; getting prices on the fence in the back

High School tennis courts – will try to repaint; Duarte getting prices on covering it

Silver Spring – getting prices on the stairs; city will be helping with Career Technical School; getting prices on asphalt in back of

building; guardrail at high school being replaced

Department Trucks – will receive one this week and one the second week of June

Mr. Ferreira – who repaired it; issues about damages by private contractors; requested a report on where we are on schools; on budget or not?

Mr. Ferreira requested information from Project Manager 4-5 weeks back; do we have to pay SMMA to do that?

Mr. Reynolds– Burman giving us prices; they know what we need

Mr. Ferreira – School Committee needs to know dollar amount; when there is an issue, School Committee needs to be informed; film on doors issue is still out there; put them on notice

Mr. Reynolds –film on the doors; whatever doors are bubbled, the film will be removed by the end of the month.

Mr. Ferreira requested a timeline on the door film issue.

Ms. Beauchaine had questions about the bathrooms at Waddington

Mr. Ferreira– should discuss at next construction meeting; three issues; six doors

Mr. Reynolds – boiler room door is wrong and needs to be replaced

Mr. Ferreira – door should have been ordered; he asked for information; Project Manager hired for fire alarm and doors but he has not received information he requested; Mr. Reynolds should have oversight with Project Manager.

Mr. Ferreira– Burman working on the doors at Martin Middle School; he wanted to know the reason why something costs more money; he does not want bills coming back on the door handles; we need to be

informed; at one point, Mr. Reynolds will have to make a decision going forward. Mr. Ferreira would like Mr. Reynolds to make the final decision and bring to School Committee for approval.

Ms. Beauchaine – requested that Mr. Reynolds take a look at the Waddington garden which was damaged over the winter. Mr. Reynolds will speak to the Principal and try to move it up on the list of projects.

Ms. Beauchaine asked if there was a final walk through at Waddington and if not, would like Mr. Reynolds to find out why it was not done; there are major issues there; i.e. holes in the walls; whoever worked on it should be held accountable.

Mr. Ferreira – no one scheduled a walk through; every Monday, he would like the Project Manager to go through the buildings, so that people will know we are watching; we want quality work for the money; he would be extremely comfortable with Mr. Reynolds going forward on this. Ms. Beauchaine – need to revisit the area of the bathrooms.

Mr. Monteiro– mentioned the sidewalk problems at Martin Middle School; Mr. Reynolds will obtain a general idea of the cost involved.

Mr. Ferreira– mentioned there are free programs about finish work; we should look for programs for our staff to be able to attend for training; i.e. Sherman and Williams Program.

Report of the Facilities Sub-Committee – Mr. Cahoon – this was already covered in Mr. Reynolds report.

Policy Sub-Committee Report – No Report

Report on Bayside Agreement

Mr. Cahoon stated that the School Committee had approved an agreement on April 20, 2015 which the City Council voted unanimously to approve; School Committee was then notified by the City Solicitor that the agreement needed to go before the Planning Board first before the City Council could approve it; since April 23rd have been working to get people together; Planning Board met last night and their opinion was that they approved the agreement with stipulation that concerns and comments from city departments and the City Solicitor would be addressed; it was recommended that all get together to work out last details. Bayside committed to working out the last details with the city; their counsel available to make changes to the agreement to get it done; everyone voted, what is holding it up. Mr. Monteiro commented that it went from School Committee to City Council to Planning Board; there is a lot of confusion; Planning Board deemed it a lease; everyone jumping through hoops; will be East Providence logo at midfield according to Mr. Andrade. Mr. Cahoon assumes that the City Council will vote on it next week. Mr. Monteiro – hopes it will be on their agenda and all ironed out with the attorneys and Bayside; September 1st completion reasonable, but not as certain as before.

Mr. Ferreira – keep track of the timeline; held up somewhere; if field does not take off; ball not dropped by School Committee since after we approved it, it was on the news the next day.

Mr. Cahoon – maybe lower scheduling rates; looking for Partnership with the city to get it done.

Mr. Monteiro – would be shame if fields are not ready for fall.

Technology Update – Kelly Ahrens, Chief Information Officer, presented a report which included updates on: number of work requests, cross-training of I/T staff and professional development, inventory updates to assist with budget decisions for 2016, donation of computers from brown University, update on PARCC testing success and technical and procedural issues related to the testing and a district website central calendar that includes all school events.

Kelly would like to come back to another meeting with an additional report to include information on one-on-one technology. Discussion took place regarding blended learning; Mr. Cahoon – if implemented that would have to come to the School Committee first.

Kim Mercer - integrating technology into learning for instruction (whiteboards, I-pads, etc.); the equipment is not just for PARCC exams.

Superintendent's Report

Personnel Report on Resignation/Leaves of Absence/Retirement

RETIREMENT

Fran Barry (35 years) Guidance Dept. Coordinator-MMS-Effective 06/26/2015

Susan Robertson (21 Years) Librarian/Media-RMS-Effective end of

2014/2015 school year

**Guilherme DaSilva - (10 years)-Custodian Nights-MMS-Effective
07/03/2015**

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Andrea Sprout (yr. 1) - Kindergarten Teacher-Waddington-Effective
2015/2016 school year**

**Jennifer Gillooly-Cahoon - (yr. 1) - Art Teacher/Dept.
Chair-EPHS-Effective 2015/2016 school year**

**Christine Vuolo-Fecteau - (yr. 2) - School Nurse-WADD/ELP-Effective
2015/2016 school year**

**Robert Anastasi (yr. 1)-Guidance Counselor-EPHS-Effective
2015/2016 school year**

Finance Report – Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director, presented the report; Revenues: \$74,844,650; Expenditures: \$34,856,922.00; still heading in a positive position and will continue to do so. The audit has been completed and Superintendent will present at next meeting. Mr. Monteiro requested a separate meeting as opposed to waiting to the end of the year. Mr. Ferreira requested a copy as soon as it is available.

Action Items

Approval of New Elementary ELA Curriculum for 2015-16

Implementation

Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent, provided updated information; during pilot, most agreed to adopt this program; teachers spoke in favor of it: Jen Clark, Grade 5 at Kent Heights said that materials were the biggest concern and she would like class sets; Kathy Weitheimer, Grade 4 at Orlo said there is a difference with whole class sets. Ms. Motta read a letter of support for the program from another teacher, Stacy Azevedo.

Ms. Motta has not come across any extra or additional programs.

Mr. Cahoon asked if we could pilot for an entire school year; Ms. Motta said we could, but it would be a large investment in materials.

Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to have three schools get the materials they want so teachers who want to do it, can, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Monteiro asked that the motion be amended; if we do not increase exposure to other schools, we would not get a better sampling. Ms. Beauchaine assumed we would continue to pilot in Kent Heights, Silver Spring, and Waddington.

Mary Teixiera, teacher, Grade 3 at Silver Spring - when presented, they did not know enough about it; mistake to have only three schools do it.

Mr. Monteiro asked that the motion be restated; asked Mr. Silva, legal

counsel if any legal issue with implementing curriculum; Mr. Silva responded not aware of any; up to School Committee to implement. Ms. Beauchaine rescinded her motion.

Motion by Mr. Cahoon to extend the pilot for the 2015-16 school year; get all the materials (\$160,000.00); come back at the end of the year to get a sampling in order to make an informed decision, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Stem Scopes Science Curriculum (Grades 6-12) for 2015-16 Implementation – Julie Motta, Assistant Superintendent, requested that we move forward with this curriculum; 50% of teachers on board; survey handed out to School Committee members. Mr. Cahoon had no objections; would really like to have one more meeting span to read up on it. Julie would like to get the kits on hand by end of June. Motion by Mr. Cahoon to table until next meeting, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0 to table. Discussion: Mr. Ferreira asked what guarantee can he get that the teachers will have everything they need. Julie will make sure professional development is included.

Approval of Job Description-Title I Small Group Intervention Math Teacher (2 Positions for Hennessey and Orlo federally funded) Julie Motta explained that we do not have the progress we would like to see in math; gaps in foundation; still need RIDE approval; will free up math coaches for other elementary schools; contract salary, whatever step teacher is at; Julie would like to put in all the schools but only

Title I; Julie explained Priority Status is 3-5 years and have to show progress to get off that status. Motion to approve by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Unified Basketball Team – Mr. Duarte, Athletic Director and Principal Janet Sheehan, asked about adding special education with regular education; he will research; most paid through Special Olympics; spring season would be after school; cost will be minimal. Motion by Ms. Beauchaine to support, seconded by Mr. Monteiro; would like dollar amount at next meeting. Vote 5-0.

Reinstatement of Freshman Baseball Team – Mr. Duarte, Athletic Director, requested approval; motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Minutes - Facilities Sub-Committee Meetings – 3/3/15, 4/7/15, 5/4/15

School Committee Meetings – 3/11/15, 4/14/15, 4/20/15. Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Possible Reschedule of June 9, 2015 School Committee Meeting – Ms. Beauchaine requested change to meeting date; she will be on a field trip with Riverside Middle School students; after discussion, School Committee agreed to reschedule the regular monthly meeting to Monday, June 15, 2015. Motion to approve by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Tsonos requested a date for second May meeting; decided on 5/26/15 at 6:30PM. Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Personnel Appointments and Layoffs

Appointment

Monica deSouza-Secretary-Hennessey Elementary School – Effective 5/18/15

Mr. Monteiro did not approve; requested information to determine if process was followed; motion by Mr. Cahoon to table to next meeting, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Layoffs – Superintendent's recommendation of 9 teacher layoffs due to program reorganization effective end of 2014/2015 school year; discussion: Superintendent explained that program reorganization refers to ensuring there are enough students to the number of teachers; scheduling taking place now and teachers need to be notified by law of layoffs by June 1st. Motion to approve by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 4-1; Mr. Ferreira voted nay.

Approval of Field Trip Request – Career/Technical Center students to attend the National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Kentucky June 19- 27, 2015. Motion to approve by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Discussion: Mr. Ferreira – should find a

way to put money in the budget in future for these students. Vote 5-0.

Requisitions – Bill List – Linda Dykeman, Deputy Finance Director presented the following items and requested School Committee approval:

Warrant #

1506 4/17/15 \$ 17,988.61

1507 4/17/15 \$ 198,579.35

Approved at last meeting

1508 4/22/15 \$ 2,000.00

1510 4/28/15 \$ 746,900.59

1511 5/5/15 \$ 200.00

1512 5/7/15 \$ 112,520.33

1513 5/8/15 \$1,395,191.07

Motion by Mr. Monteiro to approve warrants, seconded by Mr. Cahoon.

Construction Invoices:

AIA for door project; submitted in April and not approved; \$74,938.85; (Still have balance of \$334,610.15. Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Discussion: Mr. Ferreira – a week to do punch list - requested that

Linda Dykeman to contact them regarding punch list; wants to put aside before next project.

SMMA-Fire Alarm Upgrade – Invoice 42209-42287-42441-sent documentation – Motion by Mr. Cahoon to pay, seconded by Ms. Beauchine. Vote 5-0.

Strategic Building Solutions – Orlo Fire Alarm and District Doors – Invoice 13696 - \$3,634.00 and Fire Department Assessment – Invoice 13563 - \$4,783.00. Discussion regarding Fire Dept. assessment – does not have “not to exceed” on fire.... Linda will estimate – go over slightly – Kim Mercer – at about 93% now. Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve both invoices, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Duarte Corporation-RMS Ramp and Sidewalk - \$26,324.41 (Balance \$29,134.90). Mr. Cahoon noted there are punch list concerns to be addressed; but the amount to be paid is fair; Motion by Mr. Cahoon to approve Invoice #2, seconded by Mr. Ferreira. Vote 5-0.

Farrar and Associates – Life Safety Project – Invoice #1678 - \$2850.00 – Final Bill – Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Ms. Beauchaine. Vote 5-0.

Amended Policies for First Passage:

V.A.8 Attendance Policy and Procedures – Ms. Beauchaine noted and

read information regarding “social probation” section and changes; policy has been in making for four years; Motion to approve by Mr. Cahoon, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Dual Enrollment Policy – More time needed; Motion by Mr. Cahoon to table, seconded by Mr. Monteiro. Vote 5-0.

Amended Policies for Second Passage:

V.A. 19 Anti-Bullying District Policy – Motion to approve by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

III.J.3. Interview Process and Procedures for Selection of Principals..... Motion to approve by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Old Business – Paul Souza – spoke about the hiring process; his wife has been a substitute secretary and applied for a secretarial job; he felt that she was very qualified and experienced, but was turned down; he had questions about hiring practices.

Attorney Silva advised that this agenda item is for public comment on non-agenda items and that Mr. Souza was speaking about an agenda item; School Committee can listen, but is not in a position to respond; Mr. Silva requested that his wife meet with the Superintendent since she is the applicant.

Ms. Beauchaine– stated that she is new on the Committee and is proud of the hiring process of this School Committee; the School Committee tabled the item earlier; put to trust to do right by the process.

Public Comment II – Non Agenda Items

Announcements – Upcoming Zaremka fundraiser.

Mr. Cahoon – requested on next agenda: what is the administrative plan on summer programs and how can School Committee help with that.

Mr. Ferreira asked if the work on the high school cafeteria has been completed.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Beauchaine, seconded by Mr. Cahoon. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Cahoon, Clerk of the Committee